

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAL-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 L-03 DRC-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01 /078 W
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O R 231535Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9135

INFO USSOUTHCOM

GOV PAN CANAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6316

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 227864 AND PANAMA 6308

1. IN RESPONSE TO STATE 227864, AND COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY, A NUMBER OF TOPICS ARE SUBMITTED BY USCINCSO FOR AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP OFFICIALS:

A. COMBINED MILITARY COMMITTEE (CMC) - EXPLORE ACCEPTABILITY OF THIS "ALLIED STAFF" CONCEPT AND ASCERTAIN GOP INTEREST IN FORMALIZING THE ARRANGEMENT PRIOR TO AGREEMENT ON A NEW TREATY. THE CMC DERIVES FROM THE 1967 DRAFT TREATY WHICH PROVIDED FOR A JOINT DEFENSE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD HAVE ESTABLISHED CINCSO, BY PRPRESIDENTIAL ORDER, AS US REPRESENTATIVE. THE CMC IS TO BE A FORMAL ORGANIZATION WITH DIRECTION FROM THE CINC AND THE COMMANDANT OF THE GN RESPECTIVELY AND WITH A PERMANET SECRETARIAT TO DEVELOP COMBINED DEFENSE PLANS AND TO DISCUSS RELATED MILITARY ISSUES. DISAGREEMENTS OF A MILITARY NATURE WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE RESPECTIVE
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GOVERNMENTS FOR RESOLUTION. CURRENTLY, COOPERATION AND

COORDINATION BETWEEN THE GN AND USSOUTHCOM ARE FACILITATED BY INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMANDERS' COUNCIL (CINC AND GN COMMANDANT) AND THE LIAISON COMMITTEE (J-3 AND GN G-3). MEETINGS HAVE BEEN INFREQUENT AND CONCERNED, FOR THE MOST PART, WITH COORDINATION OF JOINT TRAINING.

B. TRANSFER OF HQ USSOUTHCOM- INQUIRE WHETHER THIS IS A "GUT" ISSUE WITH THE GOP OR A COSMETIC, RHETORICAL EXERCISE TO OBTAIN LEVERAGE IN THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS OR COMPENSATION UNDER ANY NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENTS.

C. CRISTOBAL/BALBOA PIERS AND NEW/OLD FRANCE FIELDS-- IMPRESS UPON THE GOP THAT US CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE FACILITIES/LAND AND THE JURISDICTION OVER THEM CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO PANAMA. (WE FELT THESE TO BE APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION TOPICS, HOWEVER, IN COORDINATION WITH THE CZG, LTGOV MCGINNIS, DOES NOT DESIRE THEIR INCLUSION SINCE THEY ARE CANAL ZONE MATTERS WHICH HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOP AUTHORITIES AND REPETITION OF SUCH WITH BG TORRIJOS MAY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.)

2. AMBASSADOR BUNKER MIGHT RAISE AS EXAMPLES OF "MATURE COOPERATION" WITH PANAMA:

A. UN PEACE FORCE - COMMEND GOP FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE UN PEACEKEEPING EFFORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NOTE THE PROFESSIONALISM DEMONSTRATED BY LTC CONTRERAS AND HIS 400-MAN FORCE AS WELL AS BY THE GN STAFF.

B. JOINT TRAINING - QUERY GOP ON RESULTS OF USSOUTHCOM SOLDIERS' PARTICIPATION IN BASIC AIRBORNE TRAINING WITH THE GN AT FT. CIMARRON (TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF OUTSTANDING SOUTHCOM/GN MILITARY COOPERATION AND COORDINATION).

C. ACCESS ROAD AND SUPER-HIGHWAY - PRAISE US/GOP COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TOWARD CONSTRUCTION OF AN ACCESS ROAD FROM PANAMA CITY INTO FT. CLAYTON AND IN THE PLAN-CONFIDENTIAL

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NING FOR THE SUPER-HIGHWAY FROM TOCUMEN TO CHORRERA. (LT GOV MCGINNIS RECOMMENDED THIS TOPIC BE ELIMINATED FROM THE LIST SINCE THE SUPER-HIGHWAY PROJECT IS AT A STANDSTILL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS HAVE DEVELOPED WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCESS ROAD. DISCUSSIONS, AGAIN, MAY PROVE TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.)

D. CHANGE OF STATUS - COMPLIMENT GOP ON RECENT

RESOLUTION OF "CHANGE OF STATUS" ISSUE IN FAVOR OF THE
US PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN
BURDENED WITH THE \$50 IMMIGRATION FEE.

E. ANTI-US PROPAGANDA - EXPRESS USG SATISFACTION AT
THE DECREASE IN ANTI-US PROPAGANDA ATTACKS IN THE PANA-
MANIAN NEWS MEDIA. PUBLICATION OF SUCH MATERIAL NOT
ONLY EXACERBATES RELATIONS LOCALLY BUT, THROUGH THE US
NEWS MEDIA, CREATES AN UNFAVORABLE REACTION AGAINST PANAMA
BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND IN CONGRESS.

3. SOUTHCOM VIEWS ON SQUATTER PROBLEM ARE AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN QUOTE: WITH RESPECT TO THE SUGGESTION ALREADY MADE
REGARDING THE SQUATTERS IN THE CANAL ZONE, WE WOULD NOT
HAVE RAISED THIS SINCE IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH GENERAL
TORRIJOS WHO PROMISED ACTION WHICH HAS NOT BEEN FORTH-
COMING. RAISING THIS ISSUE AT THIS TIME AND IN THIS
FORUM MIGHT EMBARRASS GENERAL TORRIJOS AND BECOME A
SOURCE OF IRRITATION. HOWEVER, IF IT IS ACCEPTED AS A
TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION WITH GOP OFFICIALS, AMBASSADOR
BUNKER MIGHT NOTE THAT WE HAVE REPORTS OF AN ATTEMPT BY
THE COMMUNIST ELEMENT TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF SQUATTER
ACTIVITIES IN THE ZONE. IT HAS BEEN EXERTING ITS INFLU-
ENCE TO ENCOURAGE ENCROACHMENT IN GREATER NUMBERS AND
THE PLANTING OF PERMANENT CROPS TO INCLUDE FRUIT TREES.
SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL NOT BE HELPFUL TOWARD PRESERVING
AN ATMOSPHERE THAT IS CONDUCIVE TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS.
END QUOTE.

4. EMBASSY VIEW IS THAT, IF SQUATTER SUBJECT IS RAISED,
IT SHOULD BE IN CONTEXT OF NOTING, OR CAUTIONING, THAT
CERTAIN "EXTREMIST" ELEMENTS ARE SEEKING TO CAPITALIZE
ON PROBLEM TO SOW DISCORD BETWEEN TWO PEOPLES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PANAMA06316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731116/aaaaalsi.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 227864 AND PANAMA 6308
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESUMPTION OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005